

## Gifted & Talented: Books for Kids, Teens & Young Adults

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### Books for Kids and Teens:

1. ***Anthony and the Magic Picture Frame: The Story of the Boy That Traveled Into the Past by Stepping Through the Picture Frame on His Bedroom Wall* by Michael S. Class**

This is a great story with outstanding illustrations that turns American history into a grand time-travel adventure. Anthony walks on the moon with Neil Armstrong, plays baseball with Lou Gehrig, flies from New York to Paris with Charles Lindbergh, storms the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, cries with survivors of the Holocaust, and watches battle-weary marines raise the American flag on Iwo Jima. He is with Thomas Edison at the invention of the phonograph, the light bulb, and the motion picture camera. He meets FDR, and works with Doctor Jonas Salk to conquer polio.

2. ***Becoming a Problem Solving Genius: A Handbook of Math Strategies* by Edward Zaccaro**

Every math student needs a tool belt of problem solving strategies to call upon when solving word problems. In addition to many traditional strategies, this book includes new techniques such as Think 1, the 2-10 method, and more.

3. ***The Big Wave* by Pearl S. Buck**

This is the famous story of a Japanese boy who must face life after escaping the tidal wave which destroyed his family and village.

4. ***Challenge Math for the Elementary and Middle School Student* by Edward Zaccaro**

"Math is often taught as all scales and no music. This book contains the music!" ....and tons of fun problems.

5. ***Everybody Needs A Rock*; Byrk Baylor; illustrations by Peter Parnell; Aladdin Picture Books, 1985.**

This book contains 10 rules for finding a rock. Great illustrations accompany the story (pen and ink with gold).

6. ***Fractals, Googols and Other Mathematical Tales* by Theoni Pappas**

This book explores such concepts as real numbers, exponents, dimensions, and the golden rectangle in both serious and humorous ways. Penrose the cat, the parable of p, the number

line that fell apart, Leonhard the magic turtle and many others offer an amusing and entertaining way to explore mathematical ideas.

7. ***The Gifted Kids Survival Guide (For Ages 10 and Under)* by Judy Galbraith**  
The ultimate guide to surviving and thriving in a world that doesn't always value, support, or understand high ability. For kids 10 and under (see other similar survival guides by the same author for other age groups).
8. ***G Is for Googol: A Math Alphabet Book* by David Schwartz**  
Concepts covered in this book include abacus, binary, cubit, diamonds, equilateral, exponent, Fibonacci, googol, y-axis, and zillion.
9. ***Harriet the Spy* by Louise Fitzhugh**  
This honest portrayal of childhood problems and emotions changed children's literature forever. The fascinating story is about an intensely curious and intelligent girl.
10. ***Innumeracy: Mathematical Illiteracy and Its Consequences* by John Allen Paulos**  
Sprinkling his discussion of numbers and probabilities with quirky stories and anecdotes, Paulos ranges freely over many aspects of modern life, from contested elections to sports stats, from stock scams and newspaper psychics to diet and medical claims, sex discrimination, insurance, lotteries, and drug testing. Readers of *Innumeracy* will be rewarded with scores of astonishing facts.
11. ***A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper* by John Allen Paulos**  
This book reveals the hidden mathematical angles in countless media stories. This real life perspective on the statistics we rely on and how they can mislead is for anyone interested in gaining a more accurate view of their world. Humorous and knowledgeable.
12. ***Q is for Quark: A Science Alphabet Book* by David Schwartz**  
Fascinating science alphabet book, for beginner to adult!
13. ***The Math Curse* by Jon Scieszka**  
Did you ever have one of those days where everything is a math problem? You have 10 things to do, and 30 minutes until the bus leaves. Is there enough time? You have 3 shirts and 2 pairs of pants. How many outfits can you make?
14. ***Metropolis: Ten Cities: Ten Centuries* by Albert Lorenz**  
In tracing the evolution of the metropolis, architectural illustrator Albert Lorenz dazzles readers with his extraordinary visual depictions of some of the greatest defining moments in human history (a hit with the visual spatial learners!).
15. ***Millicent Min, Girl Genius* by Lisa Yee**  
Yee's first novel examines child prodigies from a refreshing angle, showing the ups and downs of being a whiz kid. This book does an excellent job of showing Millie's grown-up brain and her decidedly middle-school problems.
16. ***My Town* (or visit Usborne Books and search on "Young Geography")**  
An award-winning, fun flap book that looks at the town where we live, with maps and more.

17. ***The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure* by Hans Magnus Enzensberger**  
In 12 dreams, a 12-year-old boy who hates math discovers the amazing world of numbers: infinite numbers, prime numbers, Fibonacci numbers, numbers that magically appear in triangles, and numbers that expand without end.
18. ***Powers of Ten* by Philip & Phylis Morrison**  
Starting with a view of a billion light-years, the book moves inward, with each page being 1/10<sup>th</sup> the scale of the previous one. In 25 steps, you're looking at a picnic by the shores of Lake Michigan, then plunging into a human hand, down through the cells inside it, the DNA inside the cells.
19. ***Rocks in His Head*; Carol Otis Hurst; Greenwillow Books, 2001. K-up.**  
This is a story about the author's father who collected rocks. Rocks were his passion. During the Depression this love enabled him to get a job. He ended up as director of the Springfield, MA Science Museum. "Anyone a little out of step with the world will identify with this true story of a man who followed his heart and his passion."
20. ***Smart Talk: What Kids Say About Growing Up Gifted* by Robert A. Shultz and James R. Delisle**  
Hundreds of kids from around the world, ages 4 to 12, share their deepest, truest thoughts about peers, families, school, and their futures. Being gifted has its upside and downside, and the kids talk about both.
21. ***The Survival Guide for Kids with ADD or ADHD* by John F. Taylor**  
Great guide to ADHD and what it means (and doesn't mean!) to your life at home and school.
22. ***The Way Life Works: The Science Lover's Illustrated Guide to How Life Grows, Develops, Reproduces, and Gets Along* by Mahlon Hoagland and Bert Dodson**  
This book is what happens when a biologist and artist share an interest in life from bacteria to humans, and collaborate on taking their knowledge public.
23. ***The Weighty Word Book* by Janet Stevens, Paul M. Levitt and Elissa S. Guralnick**  
From Abasement to Zealot, this is an alphabet book kids of all ages can enjoy! It contains stories, puns and mnemonic memory clues for the definitions.
24. ***A Wrinkle in Time*; Madeleine L'Engle, Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing, 1962.**
25. ***The Wrong Word Dictionary: 2,000 Most Commonly Confused Words* by Dave Dowling**  
Even good writers sometimes find the right word elusive. Or is it illusive? The correct usage for more than 2,000 words that people commonly misuse is provided in this concise and accessible handbook that assures, insures, and ensures that anyone who wants to communicate accurately and effectively chooses the right word every time.

## **Young Adults**

1. ***The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown**  
A murder in the Louvre reveals a sinister plot to uncover a secret that has been protected since the days of Christ. The victim, in the moments before his death, manages to leave

gruesome clues at the scene that only his granddaughter, noted cryptographer Sophie Neveu, and Robert Langdon, a famed symbolist, can untangle. (Some violent and sexual content).

2. ***Digital Fortress* by Dan Brown**

When the NSA's invincible code-breaking machine encounters a mysterious code it cannot break, the agency calls its head cryptographer, Susan Fletcher, a brilliant, beautiful mathematician. What she uncovers sends shock waves through the corridors of power. The NSA is being held hostage--not by guns or bombs -- but by a complex code. (Some violent content).

3. ***The Gifted Kids Survival Guide: A Teen Handbook* by Judy Galbraith and Jim Delisle**

Written with help from hundreds of gifted teenagers, *The Gifted Kids' Survival Guide* is the ultimate guide to surviving and thriving in a world that doesn't always value, support, or understand high ability. Full of surprising facts, step-by-step strategies, practical how-tos, inspiring quotations, and featuring insightful essays contributed by gifted young people.

4. ***A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson**

From primordial nothingness to this very moment, *A Short History of Nearly Everything* reports what happened and how humans figured it out. [Bryson's] aim is to help people like him, who rejected stale school textbooks and dry explanations, to appreciate how we have used science to understand the smallest particles and the unimaginably vast expanses of space.

5. ***The Universe in a Nutshell* by Stephen Hawking**

It's no secret that many people who own *A Brief History of Time* have never finished it. Hawking's *The Universe in a Nutshell* aims to remedy the situation, with lots of illustrations to help readers grasp some of the most brain-bending ideas ever conceived.

6. **Usborne Books**

Usborne Books are fascinating, beautifully illustrated books written with humor, drama and tons of information. Check out these marvelous books for your gifted children ages birth to adult and beyond.